

TO UNVEIL STATUE BY ELECTRICITY

Washington Inventor's Device for Franklin Shaft.

PRESIDENT COULD ACT

By Pressing Button Roosevelt Would Unloosen Drapings From Memorial in Paris.

Why not unveil the statue of Benjamin Franklin by electricity? That is the question that is being asked by all who have seen the device invented by J. S. Hill, an electrical engineer of the Department of the Interior. The statue which is referred to is the one being erected in Paris to be unveiled in the late spring.

As Franklin was the father of electricity, the American people who have seen the device think that the unveiling would be perfect, could it be executed by the mysterious power which the illustrious American discovered. The invention is simple and could be operated by a child. It has been suggested that if the plan is adopted the President could unveil the statue by pressing a button in the White House.

Advantages of Method.

The method suggested would do away with all of the inconveniences occasioned at nearly all unveilings. It is noted by the inventor that at the unveiling of the Sherman statue in this city the ceremonies were stopped for some time to give the man in charge time to explain the workings of the ropes to a man who had been engaged to attend to a minor part of the ceremony. The electrical method would be instantaneous.

It is suggested that Washingtonians could hold their ceremonies in Convention Hall on the day of the unveiling at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and the time in France would be 8 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Hill is something of a philanthropist. He has not secured a patent on the device, and is willing to give it to the French government.

The paraphernalia can be erected in any place and used under any conditions, provided an electric current can be secured, either dynamo, primary, or storage batteries, as simple electro magnets and switches, for the entire work.

Plans for Unveiling.

A pole is erected on each side of the statue to be unveiled, and an iron cable stretched tight over the top of each pole and carried down and secured to the bottom of same. Two extra pulleys are hung on this trolley wire, and attached to the underside of each is a horizontal pole, to which is attached the flags or other drapery to cover the statue.

Carried over the top of each pole on a suitable pulley is the insulated cable to transmit the current to operate the magnets, and to which is attached the counter weights, which draw back the flags after their release. On one edge of the top of each flag is sewn a strip of suitable material, on which small electro magnets are fastened every few inches. On the opposite edge of the flags are fastened in a similar manner small pieces of soft iron or steel corresponding to the magnets.

Both Switches Closed.

The switches are both closed, sending the current through magnets on the flags, which are then drawn together over the statue and adjusted so that the magnets and armatures come in contact, and hold the flags securely in place, and if they are properly adjusted the flags will be securely held even in a heavy wind.

When the signal is given for the unveiling, the switch controlling the magnets on the front edge of the flag is opened, instantly releasing the front edges of the flags, and allowing them to swing back, thus revealing the statue. The other switch is now opened and the flags released entirely, rolling back on the trolley wire to the poles, giving a very dramatic effect by this operation. The simplicity and inexpensive construction of this device should make it popular.

SKELETON FAVORITE PLAYTHING OF BOY

Young Genius Has Also Solved Airship Problem That Long Perplexed His Father.

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—That Topsey unconsciously formulated a splendid working philosophy of child development in her naive assertion that she "just grewed," is being forced upon Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Thomas by Odin, their son, aged seven.

So consistently had the youngster for three years expressed his determination to work out his own salvation, mentally and physically, that all his nurses, governesses and tutors have been dispensed with, and he will not even be compelled to go to school until he feels so inclined.

Odin recently celebrated his seventh birthday. He is an enthusiast in his pastimes. Some of the playthings, provided at his own request, are a skeleton, his favorite, whose every bone he knows by name; a physiological chart, which has enabled him to study the muscular tissue, the nervous and circulatory systems; a fully equipped automobile, boys' size, which he operates and repairs; a great globe, which has caused him to scorn all geography.

The boy recently solved a problem in airship construction which had long perplexed his father and the experts to whom he had submitted it. He devised a detachable aluminum joint for three converging hollow rods, which enables his father to go away with the cumbersome bolts with which he had been experimenting.

Odin recently surprised his father with a drawing of the model of an airship which Dr. Thomas and some of his friends of the Aero Club of America have declared to be the best they have seen.

The young designer introduced a striking innovation in his model in the form of a powerful spiral spring, which would go away with all jolts and bumps incident to alighting.

PHASES OF FRANKLIN STATUE, DRAPED AND IN RELIEF



PROPHETIC POWER FOLLOWED STING

Illness Leaves Woman With Child's Mind.

HAS BECOME A SEER

Without Pay, 8,000 People Have Visited Her Humble Cabin Within Last Year.

TASKEE, Mo., March 12.—In a log cabin three miles from this village, in the rough Wayne county foothills of the Ozarks, lives Mrs. W. E. Forbes, a woman with a prophetic instinct who is known as "The Wonderful Woman of Taskee."

Mrs. Forbes is just twenty-five years old. She is the wife of a farmer and, until 1896, was as any other woman as far as future happenings are concerned. Early in that year she was stung by some species of worm that was a stranger to the farmers and physicians of Wayne county. From this sting she almost died.

Became a Prophetess.

In November she was attacked by an illness resembling epilepsy. In 1896 came another attack, and the spell left her as a child of six years. These attacks became more frequent after a while, but they were not of long duration. While under the spell it was noticed by her husband that she could see things, though the room was in absolute darkness, and could answer questions relating to things of which she knew nothing.

The neighbors learned of this and at night would congregate at the Forbes home and ask Mrs. Forbes about lost articles, future prospects, business ventures, or anything the person was desirous of knowing. The Forbes family makes no charge for any questions that may be asked.

The register for last year shows about 8,000 persons who visited the cabin in the valley, and the daily average this year is something like forty a day.

Plays With Dolls.

Speaking of her gift, Mrs. Forbes said: "What the people tell me, as I do not remember anything of what has been said or what I have done while I was in this supernatural state. One thing that embarrasses me, though, is they tell me that when I am in that condition I play with dolls just as a child does, and that I say I am only six years old. This is embarrassing to me, and I would do anything to be relieved of the wonderful power they say I possess."

"It seems from reports, however, that I am doing lots of good, and, of course, I am glad of that, but now that so many people come here this place seems no longer like home. When I come out of the supernatural state it seems as if I had just awakened from a refreshing slumber, but my husband tells me that I never sleep till about 3 o'clock in the morning, and that when I go in this 'spell' at supper it never leaves me before 3 o'clock."

Doesn't Care for Money.

When asked why she did not move to some town easy of access, she said: "This place has been home to me for so long that I would be lonesome in a city or town, and maybe, if we stay here, the people will soon get tired of coming, because it is so hard to get here. The whole thing is distasteful to me. We have had several offers to go to cities, and people have offered us money to make the change, but I don't want to go."

STEEL TRUST TO MAKE NEW YORK CHIEF PORT

NEW YORK, March 12.—Financial circles today heard that the Steel trust has made arrangements with the railroads whereby New York will be the chief port of export for iron and steel products. Baltimore has handled most of the traffic on account of the differential freight rates. Out of 54,000 tons shipped in the last four weeks, 36,000 tons went from New York.

MAUVE MADNESS SEIZES FASHIONABLE LONDON

Both Woman and Men Get Mania. Craze for Color Extends Even to Shade of Soap.

LONDON, March 12.—London would appear to be smitten with mauve madness. Everything is mauve—mauve blinds in every shop window and on every boarding. It is impossible to escape from this overpowering mauve, if mauve it can be called.

It matters not where one observes these mauves; they shriek aloud from Burlington Arcade to Whitechapel, where the entire plateglass shop is devoted to neckties of a staggering tint heralded as the very latest thing. The same applies to the women, only more so. At least 75 per cent of the hats displayed in Regent street shop windows are mauve in color.

The most pronounced hues in walking costumes and evening wears are mauve. The craze is rapidly spreading. Chateaux, purses, shoes, gloves, waist belts, even prayer books are mauve, and one cannot see the end of it.

Mauve is now becoming the fashionable color in soap and tooth powders, and mauve is being used almost exclusively for the ribbons which bind up the programs at the theaters.

No box of sweetmeats is complete without a mauve ribbon, and mauve is even spreading to the linings of automobiles.

PATENT PETROLEUM FUEL TRIALS ARE SUCCESSFUL

NEWPORT, R. I., March 12.—Two trials with the patent petroleum fuel have already been made in Narragansett bay by the use of the torpedo boat McKee, attached to the naval torpedo station, under the immediate direction of a board of naval officers of that station, and now it is announced that a third test is scheduled to begin very shortly.

The result of the two trials is said to have been satisfactory, save in the "torch" trial at night, when sparks were seen issuing from the smokestack, and which it is now expected to wholly eliminate at the coming trial. Capt. Erik G. Lind, formerly in command of naval transports, is the patentee.

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